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New England War Veterans

of the American Revolution and of Later Wars

of

Abraham Parker's Family

and of his brothers

James, Joseph, John and Jacob

Compiled by his Great, Great, Great Grandson

WILLIAM THORNTON PARKER, M. D.



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WILLIAM THORNTON PARKER, M. D.

Formerly United States Army Medical Department

Indian War Veteran Great Plains 1867

Apache Indian War New Mexico 1867

Great-Grandson of Isaac Raud, M. D., Surgeon in the Revolution
Companion Sons of the American Revolution, National No. 857,
State No. 256, 1890

Companion First Class Order of Indian Wars U. S. A.

Aide-de-Camp Army and Navy Union U. S. Army

Formerly Acting Asst. Surgeon U. S. Army

Formerly Surgeon U. S. Indian Service

Member Association Military Surgeons

Member Parker Historical and Genealogy Association, Etc

Northampton, Massachusetts
May, 1923

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"For them to die was easy, but not to yield.
None but his foes to see him die; none but
his foes his death to tell."

William Dummer, Esq. Lieut. Governor and Commander in Chief
in and over his Majesty's province of Massachusetts Bay in New
England.

To Joseph Parker, Gent.—Greeting.

By virtue of the power and authority in and by his Majesty's
Commission to me granted, to be Lieutenant Governor, etc., I do by
these presents, reposing especial trust and confidence in your loyalty,
courage and good conduct, constitute and appoint you the said Joseph
Parker to be Lieutenant of a company of snow-shoe men, and of those
that are appointed to be in readiness to issue out against the Indian
enemy and rebels upon any alarm or attack; whereof Robert Richardson
is Captain, in the regiment of militia in the County of Middlesex,
whereof Eleazer Tyng, Esq. is Colonel. You are therefore diligently
and faithfully to discharge the duties of a Lieutenant, etc.

Given under my hand and seal at arms at Boston, 5th day Feb.
in the Eleventh year of the reign of his Majesty, King George, A. D.
1724.

Wm. Dummer.

New England War Veterans

Abraham Parker's Family

From first to last, throughout the long struggle for independence, the Parker name ranks prominently in patriotism, bravery, and service. In volume XI of "Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors" seven hundred and thirty items concerning military records of Parker War Veterans appear. Many of these records refer to Indian War Veterans of the Parker family, as well as to those who served in the War of the Revolution and in later wars.

On the stones that mark the resting places of the men who served in the wars from King Philips to the last war in our history, we read the titles which they so gallantly earned: Colonels, Captains, Lieutenants, Ensigns, Sergeants, and private soldiers as well. From early times, they all did good service, for they had been schooled, as Colonists, to be very familiar with their flintlocks and muskets. They carried their heavy firelocks from house to field, and to town and to church, and always kept them handy in the house at night. In many of the early settlements, the struggle for existence with Nature on the one side and savage foes on the other was fatal. It was no wonder that this constant schooling in the art of war made them defensive and quick to respond to duty's call. From the Wars with King Philip to the Revolution, was a period of one hundred years of almost successive warfare, and untold stories of endurance, hardship and courage. An interesting tale it would make if we were able to relate here, the part in this history the Parker name has acted.

A detachment of three hundred provincials, chiefly New Jersey men were sent from Fort William Henry under command of Col. Jos. Parker to reconnoitre the French outposts. Montcalm's scouts discovered them; on which a band of Indians, considerably more numerous went to meet them under a French Partisan named Corbiere, and ambushed them not far from Sabbath Day Point. Col. Parker had rashly divided his force; and at daybreak of the twenty-sixth of July, three of his boats fell into the snare, and were captured without a shot. Three others followed, in ignorance of what had happened, and shared the fate of the first. When the rest drew near, they were greeted by a deadly volley from thickets, and a swarm of canoes darted out upon them.

The men were seized with such a panic that some of them jumped into the water to escape, while the Indians leaped after them and speared them with their lances like fish. "Terrified." says Bougainville, "by the sight of these monsters, their agility, their firing, and their yells, they surrendered almost without resistance." About a hundred, however, made their escape. The rest were killed or captured, and three of the bodies were eaten on the spot. The journalist adds that the victory so elated the Indians that they became insupportable; "but here in the forests of America we can no more do without Indian allies than without cavalry on the plain."

Another success at about the same time did not tend to improve their manners. A hundred and fifty of them, along with a few Canadians under Marin, made a dash at Fort Edward, killed or drove in the pickets, and returned with thirty-two scalps and a prisoner. It was found, however, that the scalps were far from representing an equal number of heads, the Indians having learned the art of making two or three out of one by judicious division.

Capt. James Parker, brother of Abraham, **was** one of the founders of the town of Groton, Massachusetts. He was a very active and brave officer in the earliest wars of the Colony with the Indians. He was an earnest Christian and a deacon in the Church. Captain Parker's son, James was killed by the Indians July 27, 1694.

Lieut Josiah Parker was the father of Captain John Parker of Battle of Lexington Fame.

John Parker's son, Hananiah, served in Queen Anne's War with the French in 1712.

John Parker's son, Josiah, was a lieutenant. He was an active and efficient officer and participated in much service, as also his brothers John, Thaddeus and Joseph. His son Joseph, was in the French and Indian War at the taking of Quebec in 1759. His cousin, Peter Parker of Framingham, was in this war of 1757. In the French and Indian War of 1757, the following men were from Reading; Asa Parker, Phineas Parker and Jonah Parker, all in the troop of horse.

Ephraim Parker, Ebenezer Parker, and Green Parker. Those of the family in Lexington who responded to the roll call of Captain Parker on the morning of the alarm which opened the Revolution were Thaddeus Parker, Jonas Parker, Ebenezer Parker and Captain John Parker. They were all members of the well organized and well drilled company of "minute men." They saw active service there and often after this.

The following show extracts of the rolls in the three companies of Reading belonging to the regiment of Colonel David Green as they stood April 19. 1775. Ebenezer Parker, Thomas Parker, Jr., Thomas Parker, Sr. 2nd Company, David Parker, Samuel Parker. 3rd Company, Lieutenant Jonas Parker, Asa Parker, William Parker. Daniel Parker, Jr., Benjamin Parker, Caleb Parker, Edmond Parker, Ephraim Parker, Aaron Parker, Isaac Parker, Daniel Parker, Sr., and another Ephraim Parker. These men were in the hottest of the fight and were among the first (if not the first) to begin the fight on the retreat of the British.

Willard Parker was a sergeant in Captain John Ford's company of volunteers and in Colonel Jonah Reed's regiment who were engaged September 30, 1777, to reinforce the Northern Army at the request of the General Court of Massachusetts Bay.

William Parker was also a member of this company.

The enemy were by this time organized anew and were again advanced to the attack. General Putnam's duty called him to the lines and Captain Ford appeared with his company. He served in a regiment under the veteran Lieutenant Colonel Parker and Major Brooks. Of them he had learned the duties of a soldier. He had already signalized himself at Lexington Battle by killing five of the enemy.

Silas Parker served in the army of General Lincoln in the memorable expedition through the counties of Worcester and Berkshire to suppress the insurrection of 1786, commonly known as Shay's insurrection.

In the Fourth Indian War commonly called the Three Year's War or Lovell's War, "snow shoe companies" were raised in all the towns lying upon the Merrimac River, and these companies were "minute men" equipped with snow shoes and firearms, etc., holding themselves in readiness to go on scouting parties in pursuit of the Indians at a moment's alarm. The following constituted the snow shoe company in Chelmsford in 1724 under the command of Captain Robert Richardson and Lieutenant Robert Parker. Among these forty were Ebenezer Parker, Jonathan Parker and Benjamin Parker.

William Parker, Jr., of Chelmsford, was a private in Colonel Moses Parker's regiment, which marched on the alarm, April 19, 1775.

Benjamin Parker was a private in Captain Benjamin Parker's regiment and he was with the command that marched on the alarm, April 19, 1775 to Concord and thence to Cambridge. Benjamin Parker became a first lieutenant in Col. Goodwin's regiment, Nov. 27, 1779.

The casualties in 1775 were Lieutenant Colonel Moses Parker, wounded in battle the 17th of June by a ball which fractured his knee. He was taken captive and carried into Boston, where after the amputation of his leg, he died in prison, July 4th. He was the son of Colonel Joseph Parker. He early discovered a taste for military life, and embraced every opportunity that occurred of cultivating a knowledge of military tactics, and of gratifying his predominant love of the duties and labors of the camp. In 1758, he was honored with a Lieutenant's commission in the company, commanded by Captain Jonah Butterfield, and raised for the express purpose of the general invasion of Canada. He was promoted to a captain in the succeeding year, and in 1760, commanded a company at Fort Frederick, Saint John's. In this expedition, he distinguished himself as a brave soldier and as a intrepid and dauntless officer. He was endeared to those under his care by his assiduous attention to their wants, and constant endeavors to render their situation as pleasant as circumstances would permit. Such was his reputation that when Governor Bernard in 1671 was selecting from a multitude of applicants thirty captains for that year's service, Captain Parker stood forth the most prominent military character on the list. Colonel Arbuthnot declared that "they would not go without him, that he was the only captain they had insisted upon." So great was his popularity that his friends assured him that if he would accept the captainship, fifty men might be immediately raised to serve under him. Thus practiced for many years in the arts and duties of the tented field, he was qualified to take an active part in the Revolutionary War, at an early period of which, his fame was consummated.

About a month previous to the Battle of Bunker Hill, he was chosen Lieutenant Colonel of the 27th Regiment of Foot "minute men" under Colonel Bridge and Major Brooks, afterwards Governor of Massachusetts. The veteran Parker who had escaped through the whole war of 1756, in which he had signalized himself, and especially at the siege of Fort Frontenac, received a ball in his thigh (knee) and was left mortally wounded in the redoubt.

The reference to Lieut.-Colonel Moses Parker, one of the heroes of the battle of Bunker Hill as an Indian War Veteran refers to the French and Indian Wars just preceding the Revolution of 1763 and thereabouts. He was a veteran of many battles with the Indians, escaping with what seemed to be a series of miracles in the deadly campaigns of the war of 1756 where he had signalized himself for unusual bravery and especially at the siege of Frontenac. His father, Colonel Joseph Parker, had perished with his whole command in a terrible battle with the Oneida Indians, and the mantle of his bravery had been given to as worthy a son as ever received the honor of being the commander of brave men.

Lieut.-Colonel Parker was a man of sterling worth, brave, generous, hospitable, with sturdy frame and fearless eye, and ready and quick to understand the ever changing tide of battle. He was careful and deeply concerned for the well being of his men in camp, on the march and in the fierce encounter. From such stock came the veterans of our Indian Wars splendidly represented in the most honourable Order of Indian Wars; so many of its members like our former Commander Major General Leonard Wood, wearing the highest of all Military Orders, the coveted Congressional Medal of Honour.

In the following records are extracts copied from the official muster-rolls, archives, etc., of the State of Massachusetts, to be found at the State House, Boston.

"The muster roll of Capt. John Bridge's company in Col. Eleazer Brooks' regiment on command at Roxbury, March 4, 1776:" Thomas Parker, James Parker, Sergt. Ebenezer Parker and others. This Thomas Parker was the Lexington Thomas.

Toward the opening of the Revolutionary War many records are found regarding him. He took an active interest in the country's welfare, being, like all his name in Lexington, firmly patriotic to the American cause. He lived upon a part of his father's homestead in the south part of the town, neighbor to Capt. John Parker, his cousin. He was quartermaster of the Lexington Military Co., 1774. It seems that he was not with Capt. Parker's company at the Lexington fight. Tradition says he was ill at this time and was confined to the house. The British wantonly ransacked houses on and near their line of march. Two "redcoats" broke open the entrance to Mr. Parker's house and demanded of Jane, his wife, to be shown through the rooms. He had but one son and he, Corp. Ebenezer Parker, was doing service with his company. Thomas Parker was a tall and very large, broad shouldered man; he had great vitality and strength, and although sick was not helpless. He was of a strong family. Jonas Parker, who had been murdered by the British the morning of that day, was the strongest wrestler in the town. Amos Parker, the eldest brother, who was settled in Shrewsbury, is said to have been a remarkably strong man in his day. Mr. Parker's family was equal to the emergency. Apparently complying with the soldiers' demands, Mrs. Parker presently brought them into her husband's room. It seems that the daughter had meanwhile brought her father strong cord and he had quickly prepared himself. He seized them both and with ropes bound them tight. The tradition also says that he turned them over to the Colonial authorities. He was 48 years of age at this time.

Isaac Parker was a Lieutenant in Captain Ford's company in the same regiment.

Jonas Parker was an ensign in the same company.

Benjamin Parker, John Parker and Silas Parker were also members of the same company.

We have no records of military service of Amos Parker of Shrewsbury, but he had a family of seven sons, all of whom served more or less in the Revolutionary war, except the youngest, who was too young for service. The son, Elisha Parker is first found in Capt. Job Cushing's company, in Hon. Artemus Ward's regiment. With him were Simon Parker and many other names. Dea. Andrew Parker of Barre was Lieutenant of the first company of Barre militia at the opening of the Revolution, and probably marched with it upon Lexington alarm, 1775.

On "A pay roll of Capt. John Maynard's company in Col. Job Cushing's regiment of Mass. Bay who marched on ye alarm to Stillwater for 30 days under the command of Lieut.-Col. Wheelock, Sept. 29, 1777," is found Nahum Parker. Upon the Bennington alarm Asa Parker marched in Capt. John Maynard's company from Shrewsbury. John Parker of Shrewsbury, who was like Asa of different family lineage than Nahum Parker, marched with the Shrewsbury company to Cambridge upon the Lexington alarm, and then offered his services for the United Colonies for a long period.

John Parker, Nahum Parker, Caleb Parker, and others, served in Col. Cushing's Regiment.

The archives show that Nahum Parker also served in the Rhode Island campaign from May 4 to July 4, 1777, for which he received a bounty from the State.

Lt. Hananiah Parker from Westborough, John Parker of Southborough served in Colonel Drury's Regiment.

Josiah Parker, of Woburn was Lieutenant Parker of Lexington whose praiseworthy defensive action on the famous 19th of April, 1775, ushered in the war in an honorable manner, and marked the opening of a new epoch in the world's history. Thaddeus Parker of Lexington was another brother. He was in the earliest struggle for independence and later served eight months in the Jerseys under Gen. Washington.

Condensed records of service of the non-commissioned Parkers of Massachusetts in the Revolutionary War, as shown:

Samuel Parker,	Henry Parker,
Nathaniel Parker,	Abraham Parker,
Daniel Parker,	Caleb Parker,
Thomas Parker,	John Parker,
Samuel Parker,	Free Parker,
Joseph Parker,	Colton Parker,
Michael Parker,	John Parker,
Sergt. John Parker,	Benjamin Parker,
Enoch Parker,	Phineas Parker,
James H. Parker,	John Parker.
Abraham Parker,	Joseph Parker,
Josiah Parker,	Stephen Parker,
John Parker,	Jacob Parker,
Wm. Parker.	James Parker,
Daniel Parker,	Isaac Parker,
John Parker,	Lemuel Parker,
Eleazer Parker,	Nehemiah Parker,
Lemuel Parker,	Levi Parker,
Abijah Parker,	Abel Parker,
Abel Parker,	John Parker,

William Parker,
Francis Parker,
James Parker;
Ichabod Parker,
Samuel Parker,
John Parker,
William Parker,
Jonas Parker,
Corp. Nathan Parker,
Simeon Parker,
Phineas Parker,
John Parker,
Josiah Parker,
Noah Parker,

Asa Parker;
Oliver Parker,
James Parker,
Nathaniel Parker,
Silas Parker,
Benjamin Parker,
Ebenezer Parker,
David Parker,
Corp. Joseph Parker,
Daniel Parker,
Abijah Parker,
John Parker,
Jacob Parker,

The archives show these records of service in the volume of non-commissioned officers and privates of the Continental Army:

Gideon Parker,
John Parker,
Joshua Parker,
Jesse Parker,
John Parker,
Samuel Parker,
Oliver Parker,
Daniel Parker,
David Parker,
George Parker,
John Parker,
Nathaniel Parker,
David Parker,
Eleazer Parker,
Elias Parker,
Samuel Parker,

Abijah Parker,
Daniel Parker,
Joseph Parker,
Jesse Parker,
Joshua Parker,
Edmond Parker,
Jackson Parker,
Benjamin Parker,
William Parker,
William Parker,
Nathaniel Parker,
William Parker,
John Parker,
Charles Parker,
Josiah Parker,
Thomas Parker.

Captain John L. Parker of Lynn, Massachusetts, Genealogist and Historian, from whose writings many valuable items for the brochure have been obtained, served faithfully with many other of his Parker relatives in the War of the Rebellion. He was Department Commander of the Massachusetts Grand Army of the Republic. He was also a direct descendant of our honoured Patriarch, Abraham Parker. His great grandfather with four of his brothers served in the Revolutionary War. Eight Parkers were killed in action, seven died of their wounds, and two died as prisoners of war. † R. I. Pace.

In the war of 1812 seventy-three Parkers were recorded. Undoubtedly many more served. In Col. Osgood's Regiment raised in Boston and in Col. Nichols' Regiment, Thomas G. Parker, Sergt. Wm. Parker and Josiah and Walter Parker in the Groton Regt. Corp. Wm. Parker in Col. Nichols' Regt.

Graduates of United States Military Academy

Died before July 1st, 1902

Charles P. Parker, 1885,	No. 3067
Dexter W. Parker, 1870,	No. 2350
*Thomas H. Parker, 1861,	No. 1952
Francis Lee J. Parker, 1894,	No. 3574
Frank Parker, 2894,	No. 3592
*James Parker, 1876,	No. 2623
James E. Parker, 1895,	No. 3643
*John H. Parker, 1892,	No. 3498
Perry Parker, 1879,	No. 2821
Robert B. Parker, 1841	No. 1086
Theophilis Parker, 1877,	No. 2659

*Author Mil. Subjects in Library of West Point.

In this compilation the compiler is deeply indebted to the scholarly work of Theodore Parker of Worcester, Mass.—“John Parker of Lexington.”

W. Thornton Parker.





